

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN COUNTIES FEBRUARY 2003



The 2002 Economic Census is Underway

The Economic Census profiles the US economy every 5 years, from the national to the local level. Forms were mailed in November and December to 5 million businesses, requesting information about business operations during calendar year 2002. Forms were due February 12, 2003, but it is not too late for a business to complete and submit the forms if they have done so already.

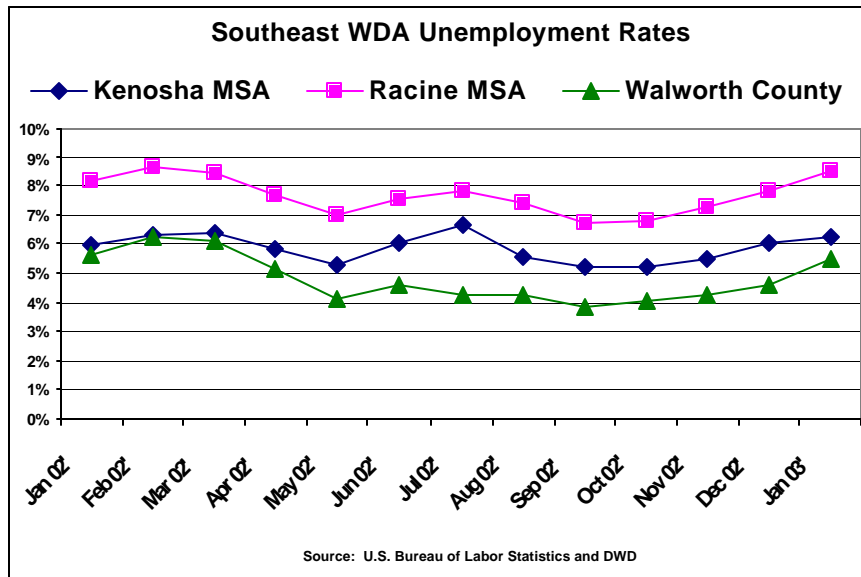
January data brings a new look to industry employment data as the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) replaces the older Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) coding. This marks the first issue of the Southeast *Workforce Observations* that uses this new industry perspective. A forum like this cannot fully explain the differences between the two systems. Please keep in mind not to compare SIC and NAICS data for trends analysis or to measure industry employment performance.

Walworth County's industry data show a monthly change of -1,670 total jobs. This represents a 4.5 percent decrease in the total jobs in the county, which in another county could be a cause for alarm, but for Walworth County in January this is quite a reasonable and expected occurrence. Most of this monthly change is tied to the University and school districts' (government employment) in Whitewater and the rest of the county, where the winter break affects the reporting of the support staff and university student employment. Inter-

The **Racine MSA** unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) registered 8.5 percent in January; up seven-tenths of a point since December and up three-tenths a percentage point from last January. This rate matches the most recent January of high of 8.5 percent registered in January 1992

Racine County's industry employment figures show 1,070 fewer total jobs from December to January. Construction, trade and business services bore the brunt of the largest, although expected employment decreases as January is typically the month that shows the largest net decrease of employment on a monthly basis. The trade employment is especially reduced as the holiday season temporary employment boost winds down. Annually, Racine was the only regional county to show industry employment growth, albeit slight growth showing 170 more jobs than in January 2002. Services employment continued its growth, while manufacturing is running a yearly deficit of 470 jobs.

The **Walworth County** unemployment rate is 5.5 percent in January, which is an increase of nine-tenths of a point over the month and is about two-tenths of a point (rounded) lower than January 2002 figure. Walworth was the only Southeast county to show an annual unemployment rate decrease in January.



estingly, leisure and hospitality employment saw a sharp increase (+340 jobs) at a time of year when one typically see moderation within this industry. The over the year perspective total industry employment is also bolstered by the leisure and hospitality sector showing almost 11 percent growth or 720 more jobs than in January 2002.

The **Kenosha MSA** not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate stands at 6.2 percent this month. This is an increase of two-tenths of a point over the month and three-tenths over the year. This monthly increase seems to be subdued as usually the unemployment rate increases much more sharply—about 1.2 percent points from December to January on average.

Kenosha's industries show 2,010 fewer jobs over the month. Like the other southeast counties, a drop of this magnitude is not out of the realm of expectation. Education and health services saw the most dramatic decrease the bulk of this decrease came from the education side of the equation. Only a few industries show a monthly gain or stability—manufacturing being one of them. Annually, construction employment shows an annual deficit; the first annual deficit in this industry since June of 2001.

January 2003	Wisconsin	Kenosha County/MSA	Racine County/MSA	Walworth County	Southeast WDA	City of Kenosha	City of Racine
Civilian Labor Force*	3,065,215	82,791	95,906	53,299	231,996	48,979	40,233
Persons Employed	2,873,467	77,617	87,780	50,391	215,788	45,386	35,084
Persons Unemployed	191,748	5,174	8,126	2,908	16,208	3,593	5,149
Unemployment Rate	6.3%	6.2%	8.5%	5.5%	7.0%	7.3%	12.8%
Total jobs of all non-farm industries**	2,716,731	52,214	78,938	39,091	170,243		
Goods Producing Jobs	631,498	12,662	23,629	10,085	46,376		
Service Producing Jobs	2,085,233	39,552	55,309	29,006	123,867		
Construction, Mining and Natural Resources	110,853	1,991	3,446	1,409	6,846		
All Manufacturing	520,645	10,671	20,183	8,676	39,530		
Total Trade	422,576	8,759	12,526	4,963	26,248		
Wholesale Trade	114,463	1,918	2,997	xx	xx		
Retail Trade	308,113	6,841	9,529	xx	xx		
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	103,664	1,648	1,842	1,220	4,710		
Financial Activities	153,010	1,588	2,512	933	5,033		
Education and Health Services	356,983	6,910	10,076	3,983	20,969		
Leisure & Hospitality	224,848	5,542	5,802	7,301	18,645		
Information, Professional and Business Services, Other Services	422,213	6,217	11,926	4,031	22,174		
Information	50,500	429	757	xx	xx		
Professional and Business Services	234,709	3,082	6,394	xx	xx		
Other Services	137,004	2,706	4,775	xx	xx		
All Government	401,939	8,888	10,625	6,575	26,088		
Change from December 2002							
Civilian Labor Force*	60,490	460	3,200	360	4,020	300	1,240
Persons Employed	27,580	270	2,280	-130	2,420	160	910
Persons Unemployed	32,910	190	920	490	1,600	140	330
Unemployment Rate	1.0%	0.2%	0.7%	0.9%	0.6%	0.2%	0.4%
Total jobs of all non-farm industries**	-69,980	-2,010	-1,070	-1,670	-4,750		
Goods Producing Jobs	-12,360	-190	-220	-230	-650		
Service Producing Jobs	-57,620	-1,820	-840	-1,440	-4,100		
Construction, Mining and Natural Resources	-11,140	-200	-360	-240	-800		
All Manufacturing	-1,220	10	140	0	150		
Total Trade	-15,720	-210	-220	-160	-590		
Wholesale Trade	-480	0	-20	xx	xx		
Retail Trade	-15,240	-210	-190	xx	xx		
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	-2,180	-80	-130	-20	-230		
Financial Activities	-440	10	10	-30	-10		
Education and Health Services	-3,940	-950	120	20	-810		
Leisure & Hospitality	-6,510	-150	-170	340	20		
Information, Professional and Business Services, Other Services	-5,100	-60	-330	-430	-810		
Information	-130	0	0	xx	xx		
Professional and Business Services	-5,860	-70	-280	xx	xx		
Other Services	890	20	-50	xx	xx		
All Government	-23,740	-380	-130	-1,170	-1,680		
Change from January 2002							
Civilian Labor Force*	61,260	800	2,290	70	3,160	380	1,100
Persons Employed	58,600	540	1,810	150	2,500	310	720
Persons Unemployed	2,660	270	480	-90	660	70	380
Unemployment Rate	0.0%	0.3%	0.3%	-0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.6%
Total jobs of all non-farm industries**	-2,560	-590	170	-660	-1,090		
Goods Producing Jobs	-11,870	-590	-320	-110	-1,010		
Service Producing Jobs	9,310	-10	480	-550	-80		
Construction, Mining and Natural Resources	-960	-120	160	-150	-120		
All Manufacturing	-10,920	-470	-470	40	-900		
Total Trade	-7,740	100	70	-290	-120		
Wholesale Trade	1,240	-180	-20	xx	xx		
Retail Trade	-8,990	280	90	xx	xx		
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	970	40	-20	-70	-50		
Financial Activities	1,610	0	-20	-90	-100		
Education and Health Services	6,710	-170	-70	340	100		
Leisure & Hospitality	3,850	-430	30	720	330		
Information, Professional and Business Services, Other Services	10,670	360	230	-340	250		
Information	-1,260	10	-50	xx	xx		
Professional and Business Services	5,950	260	160	xx	xx		
Other Services	5,980	90	120	xx	xx		
All Government	-6,760	90	260	-830	-480		

* Labor force figures are **not** seasonally adjusted and are commonly revised. Figures from "place of residence" survey from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Local Area Unemployment Statistics program. **Figures based upon "place of employment" survey from the BLS, Non-Farm Wage and Salary estimates.

"XX" indicates that data is suppressed and has been aggregated with other industries. **Month and year ago change figures are rounded and may not sum to total**

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